

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) An isolated DNA encoding vitamin B₆ phosphate phosphatase selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence represented in SEQ ID NO:9;
- (b) a DNA sequence which encodes a polypeptide having vitamin B₆ phosphate phosphatase activity and hybridizes under standard conditions to the DNA sequence defined in (a) or a fragment of thereof;
- (c) a DNA sequence which encodes a polypeptide having vitamin B₆ phosphate phosphatase activity, wherein said polypeptide is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO:10;
- (d) a DNA sequence which encodes a polypeptide having vitamin B₆ phosphate phosphatase activity and is at least 70% identical to the DNA sequence represented in SEQ ID NO:9;
- (e) a degenerate DNA sequence of any one of (a) to (c).

Claim 2. (Original) A vector or plasmid comprising the isolated DNA of claim 1.

Claim 3. (Original) A polypeptide encoded by the isolated DNA of claim 1.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A recombinant microorganism of the genus *Sinorhizobium* or *Escherichia*, capable of producing vitamin B₆ from vitamin B₆ phosphate, wherein said microorganism is transformed with the DNA of claim 1 or the vector or plasmid of claim 2.

Claim 5. (Original) The microorganism of claim 4, wherein said microorganism is *Sinorhizobium meliloti* IFO 14782 having pVKPtacpdxP (*S. meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKPtacpdxP).

Claim 6. (Original) The microorganism of claim 4, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli* JM109 having pKKpdxP (*E. coli* JM109/pKKpdxP).

Claim 7. (Original) A process for preparing a cell-free extract having vitamin B₆ phosphate phosphatase activity, which comprises cultivating the microorganism according to claim 4 wherein the microorganism is cultivated under conditions in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value of about 5.0 to about 9.0, at a temperature about 5°C to about 45°C, and for 1 day to about 15 days under aerobic conditions, and disrupting cells of the microorganism.

Claim 8. (Original) The process for producing vitamin B₆ from vitamin B₆ phosphate which comprises contacting vitamin B₆ phosphate with the cell-free extract of

microorganism according to claim 4 in a reaction mixture, and recovering the resulting vitamin B₆ from the reaction mixture.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The process according to claim claims 7 or 8, wherein said microorganism is *Sinorhizobium meliloti* IFO 14782 having pVKPtacpdxP (*S. meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKPtacpdxP).

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The process according to claim claims 7 or 8, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli* JM 109 having pKKpdxP (*E. coli* JM 109/pKKpdxP).

Claim 11. (New) A recombinant microorganism of the genus *Sinorhizobium* or *Escherichia*, capable of producing vitamin B₆ from vitamin B₆ phosphate, wherein said microorganism is transformed with the vector or plasmid of claim 2.

Claim 12. (New) The process according to claim 8, wherein said microorganism is *Sinorhizobium meliloti* IFO 14782 having pVKPtacpdxP (*S. meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKPtacpdxP).

Claim 13. (New) The process according to claim 8, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli* JM109 having pKKpdxP (*E. coli*. JM 109/pKKpdxP).